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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NC

CD NO.

COUNTRY

East Germany

DATE DISTR

23 March 1953

SUBJECT

Condition of the Maxhuette Plate Mill

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PLACE ACQUIRED

NO OF ENCLS.

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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- [REDACTED]
1. The plate mill (Grobblechstrasse) at Maxhuette, Unterwellenborn, has operated satisfactorily since its test run in July 1952. The mill rolls heavy plate from 12 to 18 millimeters thick from rough blooms of 700 to 800 kilograms. The rough blooms come from the Maxhuette blooming-mill train. Production for an eight-hour shift was at first 40 metric tons; current capacity is 62 metric tons per shift, and maximal output amounts to 81 metric tons per shift.
 2. In October 1952 the operational plan for production of 1,000 metric tons was 110 percent fulfilled. Difficulties have arisen in heating the rough blooms, since the bloom furnace (Brannenstossofen) at Maxhuette has to service both the plate mill and the 750 three-high rolling mill train. The old billet furnace (Knueppelofen) has been under repair and was supposed to be put back into operation by the end of 1952. When the billet furnace is back in operation, however, procurement of gas will present a further difficulty, since the capacity of the old model generators on hand is insufficient. The 1953 investment plan provides for the renovation of the generator installation.
 3. Because both the 750 three-high mill and the plate mill are driven by the same power installation (gemeinsamer Antrieb), it has been necessary to run the plate mill only one shift per day, while the three-high mill is in operation, rebuilding or repairs are carried out on the three-high mill. On 7 November 1952 the first attempt was made to run both mills at the same time by rolling sheet bars in the three-high mill train; the results of this experiment were encouraging. It was planned to attempt to roll profiles also. This trial will determine whether a special electric power unit is to be set up for the plate mill. The plate mill and the three-high mill train can be driven by the same steam engine only if steam pressure is constant.
 4. The situation in regard to the procurement of top and bottom rolls has improved. Two sets of rolls are on hand, and a third set was being processed by VLB Brandenburg for delivery at the end of November 1952.

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Sufficient middle rolls are on hand.

5. Work began in November 1952 on the extension of Hall 7, where the furnaces for heating plates are located, and on the crane runway. The hall is to be put into operation at the beginning of the second quarter of 1953.
6. Provisions are made in the 1953 plan for investments amounting to 550,000 DME for the installation of a power unit (motor, gears, rectifiers) for the plate mill.